

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0186

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK 1547

CINCPAC

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1. PAK CHUN-KYU, CHAIRMAN OF POLICY COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY, TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STEERING COMMITTEE MAY 20 THAT ROK SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID FURTHER UNGA DEBATES ON KOREAN QUESTION. PAK OBSERVED THAT UNGA, UNLIKE SECURITY COUNCIL, IS DOMINATED BY NONALIGNED AND LEFT-LEANING MEMBERS WHO EXERCISE DEPOTIC POWER, SO THAT "IT SEEMS SILLY TO BASE OUR FOREIGN POLICY ON THE UN." GIVEN TREND IN UNGA, PAK SAID, IT S INEVITABLE THAT ROK WILL CEASE HEAVY RELIANCE ON UN "REGARDLESS OF WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT." HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT ROK SIDE SHOULD NOT TABLE RESOLUTION AT 30TH UNGA.

2. ROK PRESS REPORTED PAK'S COMMENTS AS WELL AS REACTION BY UNIDENTIFIED MOFA OFFICIAL, WHO AGREED THAT "IT IS A SOBER TRUTH THAT THE UN HAS BEEN CHANGED BY THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST POWERS." HOWEVER, OFFICIAL ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ROKG IS TAKING APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN INSISTENCE ON SHOWDOWN IN UNGA.

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3. ONLY OTHER COMMENT ON PAK'S SUGGESTION CAME FROM INSIGNIFICANT UNIFICATION PARTY, WHOSE SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND PAK'S MOTIVE FOR SAYING ROK CANNOT RELY ON UN. SPOKESMAN SAID THAT DIPLOMACY IS EXTENSION OF DOMESTIC POLITICS AND THEREFORE ROK SHOULD

STRENGTHEN FORMER THROUGH FUNDAMENTAL REFORM OF LATTER,
INCREASING CONFIDENCE OF FRIENDLY UN MEMBERS.

4. IN ONLY EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR, CHUNGAN ILBO
GENERALLY SUPPORTED PAK, AGREEING THAT ROK CANNOT RELY
ON UN. PAPER SAID GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE MUST ADAPT TO NEW
ERA OF "SEPARATION" FROM UN. IT WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT ROK
MUST BE CAREFUL SINCE WITHOUT APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE
TO ARMISTICE IT SOLVES NOTHING TO STAY ALOOF FROM UN.
PAPER OFFERED NO ALTERNATIVE OF ITS OWN, BUT SAID THAT ROK
SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON BUILDING NATIONAL POWER AND "SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY" INSTEAD OF WASTING ENERGY ON UN DIPLOMACY.

5. COMMENT: PAK IS FIRST SIGNIFICANT ROK POLITICAL
FIGURE TO SUGGEST PUBLICLY THAT REFFOT REQUIRED FOR UNGA
DEBATE IS PERHAPS NOT WORTH THE CANDLE. PAK'S OBJECTIVE MAY
BE TO PREPARE KOREANS FOR DEFEAT IN UNGA, WHICH PAK IMPLIED
IS INEVITABLE.
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